



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MEDIA RELEASE

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County Executive Urges Local Support of Ex-Im Bank *Calls for Re-evaluation of GE Strategy*

Erie, PA – As GE Transportation announces plans to lay off 1,500 workers in the coming months, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper is urging support for the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank).

GE Transportation, which depends heavily on foreign trade, has been negatively impacted by Congress' failure to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank when its charter expired on June 30, 2015. Last month both of Erie County's U.S. Representatives, Mike Kelly and Glenn Thompson, voted in support of the Ex-Im Bank reauthorization, joining Senator Bob Casey in supporting the bank.

"I am pleased that Erie County's representatives in Congress saw the importance of the Ex-Im Bank to our economy, and I encourage others to lend their support," urged Dahlkemper.

Despite greater political support for the Ex-Im Bank from Pennsylvania, employment at GE's Fort Worth, Texas plant has remained steady, while the workforce in Erie sees major cuts. Both Texas Senators Cornyn and Cruz oppose the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank.

"With the employment levels at the Fort Worth facility remaining intact, I am encouraging GE to re-evaluate their strategy. Political support for the Ex-Im Bank is strong from Erie County and across Pennsylvania, which cannot be said of Texas" said Dahlkemper. "I am calling upon GE to take into consideration the levels of support for the Ex-Im bank in this region and bring the domestic work back to the Erie plant until foreign orders increase." urged Dahlkemper.

The Erie County's workers at the GE Transportation facility have the skill set to build any locomotive. They also have proven their loyalty to the company for over a decade, including their recent efforts lobbying for the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank legislation.

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